

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 233520

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

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TAGS: ESTC, COCOM

SUBJECT: COCOM LIST REVIEW - ML 8, EXPLOSIVES

1. US CANNOT AGREE TO THE GERMAN PROPOSAL TO DELETE BLACK POWDER FROM THE EMBARGO. BLACK POWDER IS USED AS IGNITION MATERIAL IN VARIOUS TYPES OF MILITARY AMMUNITION AND MILITARY PYROTECHNIC DEVICES. IN ADDITION, BLACK POWDER CAN BE USED AS A MILITARY EXPLOSIVE AND IS ALSO POPULAR WITH INSURGENCY GROUPS; WHILE INDUSTRIAL USES OF BLACK POWDER HAVE DECREASED THE MILITARY RELATED USES NOTED ABOVE HAVE REMAINED.

2. US CAN AGREE IN PRINCIPAL TO THE GERMAN PROPOSAL TO ADD A NOTE TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING EXCEPTING CERTAIN NITRATE-BASED INDUSTRIAL EXPLOSIVES. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THESE SHOULD BE LISTED UNDER PARA 4 OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, RATHER THAN PARA 3 AS PROPOSED BY GERMANS SO THAT THEY WOULD BE COVERED BY THE QUOTE REASON-
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ABLE QUANTITIES UNQUOTE, QUOTE END USE UNQUOTE AND QUOTE

REPORTING UNQUOTE CLAUSES OF PARA 4. WE ALSO BELIEVE
GERMAN TERM (QUOTE CONSIST MAINLY OF AMMONIUM NITRATE
AND/OR OTHER NITRATES UNQUOTE) NEEDS TO BE DEFINED MORE
CLEARLY. THUS, WE WOULD PROPOSE FOLLOWING AS ADDITION TO
ITEMS LISTED UNDER PARA 4: QUOTE NITRATE BASED (40 PERCENT
OR MORE) PROVIDED THAT THEY DO NOT CONTAIN MORE THAN 40
PERCENT NITROGLYCAL/NITROCLYCERINE AND/OR NO MORE THAN
16 PERCENT TNT. UNQUOTE

3. NITRATE EXPLOSIVES CONTAINING 10 PERCENT OR MORE TNT
OR 20 PERCENT OR MORE NITROGLYCAL OR NITROCLYCERINE COULD
BE USED TO PRODUCE MILITARY EXPLOSIVES THROUGH THE
APPLICATION OF A SOLVENT EXTRACTION PROCESS. THESE
EXTRACTED EXPLOSIVES ARE USED IN MILITARY PROPELLANTS
AND HIGH EXPLOSIVES. FOR THIS REASON WE BELIEVE QUANTITY
LIMIT END-USE, AND REPORTING REQUIREMENT UNDER PARA 4
ARE DESIRABLE. INGERSOLL

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